

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CLUB

FEBRUARY 25, 1920

A meeting of the Club was held at 3.30 P.M. at The New York Botanical Garden. Dr. H. A. Gleason presided. There were 21 persons present.

The minutes of the meetings held January 28 and February 10 were adopted.

Mr. William T. Arnold and Mr. Charles E. Fairman were elected to membership. The resignation of Dr. O. E. White was accepted. The death on November 8, 1919, of Mr. E. C. Wurzelow was noted.

Dr. R. A. Harper, on behalf of the committee charged with the selection for nomination of a candidate or candidates for the offices of Secretary and Treasurer, reported, suggesting Dr. F. W. Pennell for both these positions. The joint tenure of these offices has been found of much convenience. Dr. Pennell was elected Secretary-Treasurer.

The Treasurer was authorized to renew insurance upon our stock in the basement of the library of Columbia University.

The resignation of Dr. Pennell as Chairman of the Field Committee was accepted.

The scientific program consisted of two titles:

Dr. H. M. Denslow discussed "Our Native Orchids." After an introduction telling of his own long acquaintance with the orchids of our northeastern, and especially our local, flora, the speaker entered upon his real theme. This considered first the status of our knowledge of orchids; emphasizing the limitation of present knowledge and stating as reasons for this (a) the shortness of flowering-season of some species, (b) the minute size of flowers and general inconspicuousness of some species, (c) the unexpected habitats of some species, and (d) the sporadicity of occurrence of yet some species. Then he called our attention to the imperfect representation in herbaria, and locally in our Club collection at The New York Botanical Garden, of our orchids, emphasizing the need of a collection sufficiently ample to show us the distribution of each sort. The same want is evi-

dent in the Garden's own herbarium. The speaker insisted upon the urgent need of soon building ample herbaria as, because of the increasing rarity and even disappearance of certain species, it will later be impossible to obtain such data.

For the obtaining of information concerning our orchid-life Dr. Denslow suggested: (a) more state and other local floras (studies to give status of orchids and other plants in the same waning condition), (b) exploration, (c) increase of our herbarium, and toward this he advocated a system of exchanges. For the recording of our information as to species-ranges, and our help in realizing where exploration is most needed, he advocated plotting known areas of occurrence upon blank outline maps.

Dr. Denslow closed with the injunction that in the next ten or fifteen years we must discover whatever we wish to know concerning the occurrence or many native orchids—therefore “be up and doing!”

Dr. Alfred Gundersen showed and discussed “Labels and Records for Herbaceous Plants.” The Brooklyn Botanic Garden has had difficulty with the wanton transference or removal of labels from the beds for herbaceous plants. The resulting confusing of data was first obviated by the mapping of their plantings; still for the public who had to depend upon the labeling present, this was not sufficient. Finally, after a series of experiments, there has been adopted a metal two-faced label, firmly secured to a post and so placed between two plantings on each side that each wing of the label and each face of each wing will designate a planting, the whole labeling four plantings. The permanence and obvious economy of such a label should lead to its wide adoption.

The meeting adjourned.

FRANCIS W. PENNELL,
Secretary